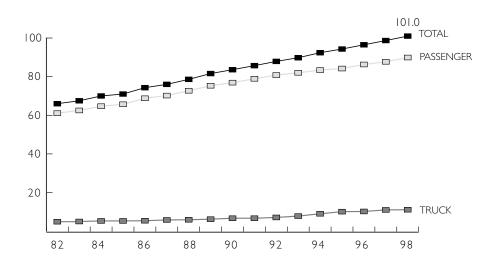
# ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FISCAL YEAR 1999 ANNUAL REPORT

## OVERVIEW OF THE ILLINOIS TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

## **HIGHWAYS**

Illinois' 139,000-mile network of state and local roads is the third largest in the nation. Nearly 17,000 miles of the roads are under the state's jurisdiction. Of the 26,000 bridges in Illinois, 8,000 of them are on the state system.

## AVERAGE VEHICLE MILES TRAVELLED (AVMT) BY AUTOS AND TRUCKS IN ILLINOIS 1982–1998 IN BILLIONS OF MILES



The state highway system is the most heavily used. In 1998, the most recent year for which traffic volume data is available, Illinois' highway network carried nearly 101 billion vehicle miles of travel. Two-thirds of that traffic moved on the state highway system that constitutes only 12.5 percent of the total road miles and 30 percent of all bridges.

The state also has the third largest interstate highway system, including three of the nation's five transcontinental routes that carry the most commercial vehicle traffic. Illinois' interstate highways account for about 1.5 percent of all road miles but carry nearly a quarter of all traffic in the state.

## **PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

Northeastern Illinois has the second largest combined transit system in the nation, while downstate urban transit systems provide service in Southwestern Illinois, eight metropolitan areas, and 26 rural and small urban areas. (See map.) Transit systems include commuter and rapid transit trains and/or buses. Smaller, lift-equipped vehicles provide specialized service for the elderly and persons with disabilities in urban and non-urban areas.

The extensive multi-modal transportation system requires ongoing investments to continue fostering a healthy economy and serving the people of Illinois.

☐ COUNTIES WHERE TRANSIT SYSTEMS OPERATED IN FY 1999



#### **AIRPORTS**



#### MAINLINE RAIL SYSTEM



### RAIL PASSENGER SYSTEM



Public transportation provides an important mobility alternative for citizens who have no other feasible way to commute. In Northeastern Illinois and the St. Louis Metro East area, public transportation also plays an important role in relieving traffic congestion. Three transit systems under the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) in Northeastern Illinois carry 95 percent of the approximately 600 million annual public transportation passengers in Illinois.

## AIR TRANSPORTATION

Illinois' airport system is the second largest in the nation and includes one of the world's busiest airports at O'Hare International in Chicago, which serves more than 64 million passengers annually. Fourteen other Illinois airports have scheduled air carrier service. There are currently 118 airports designated for public use and 285 heliports.

In 1999, there were 21,063 registered pilots and 9,668 registered planes engaged in general aviation.

## **RAIL TRANSPORTATON**

Two of the nation's top rail freight gateways are located in Illinois: the largest is in the Chicago region and includes the most extensive network of intermodal transfer terminals; the other top rail gateway is in the East St. Louis metro area. Illinois' rail freight network has nearly 7,500 miles of track owned and operated by 50 privately owned railroad companies. IDOT's rail freight improvement program focuses on preserving essential rail freight service for communities and shippers faced with potential abandonment of rail lines.

Chicago also is the Midwest hub for Amtrak rail passenger service, with trains on 10 regional and transcontinental routes providing service every weekday to Illinois cities and destinations beyond. The state sponsors supplemental intercity service on those routes — from Chicago to St. Louis, Carbondale and Quincy. In addition, Illinois co-sponsors service, with Wisconsin, between Chicago and Milwaukee. High-speed rail service between Chicago and Springfield also is under development.

### NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION

Illinois currently has more than 2,000 miles of bikeways for its four million bicyclists, with more than 1,000 miles in Northeastern Illinois where there is a greater use of bicycles for work and personal commuting. Other urban areas with developing bikeway networks include Rockford, Quad-Cities, Bloomington, Metro-East, Peoria, Champaign and Springfield. In many areas, these networks provide access to public transportation. More than 100,000 miles of the 139,000 miles of Illinois highways, streets and roads also are suitable for bicycling, including 61,300 miles of rural roads.